



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

MINUTES

Wednesday, September 2, 2020

Meeting Held Electronically

PRESENT: Chairperson Pete Palmer; Commissioners Marie Monroe, Mike Ragole, Joel Stempil and Steve Ziomek (arrived at 4:15 p.m.)

ABSENT: Vice-Chair Denise Pulk

STAFF: Kelly Corsette, Communications/Public Affairs Director

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

Chair Palmer called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

2. Discussion and possible action to approve August 5, 2020 Veterans Advisory Commission meeting minutes

COMMISSIONER RAGOLE MOVED TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 5, 2020 VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER MONROE SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR PALMER, COMMISSIONERS MONROE, RAGOLE, AND STEMPILO VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. COMMISSIONER ZIOMEK NOT YET PRESENT.

3. Presentation and discussion about expanded veteran programs and resources information on the city's website

Mr. Corsette presented an outline of the information regarding veterans' issues that he is recommending be added to the City's website. The website currently has a veterans' section composed of a variety of areas, including information about the Veterans Advisory Commission, PTSD Foundation, and the City being a Vietnam War commemorative partner. The goal is to make the veterans section of the website a resource portal.

The resources area could include:

- ✓ Health and Wellness, which would connect to the beconnectedaz.org page, which holds a wealth of information and links, including Arizona Coalition of Military Families, Arizona Department of Veterans Services, TriWest Healthcare Alliance, PTSD Foundation, and Hidden Heroes
- ✓ Legal, which could include information about Veterans Court and other legal resources
- ✓ Education and Careers, which could include information on furthering education and careers through sources such as Skillbridge, ASU Tillman Center, and Scottsdale Community College
- ✓ Business and Economy could include information on organizations such as Southwest Veterans Chamber of Commerce

Commissioners talked about various ways to highlight vetted businesses that offer benefits to veterans and their families or are veteran owned. They were concerned about the idea of directing businesses to join the Veterans Chamber of Commerce or Scottsdale Chamber in order to be made part of a list. It was noted that AZCentral.com and VeteranAid.org have a listing of businesses that offer veteran discounts.

Mr. Corsette continued his presentation, highlighting the area of the website that would include a listing of

- ✓ Veterans Organizations. It was suggested that groups be organized by those focusing on Scottsdale residents, those offered statewide, and those that are available nationally.

The final section:

- ✓ Events/History/Memorials, would focus on celebrations such as Memorial Day and Veterans Day and other historical recognitions.

Mr. Corsette will continue working on developing a test site for review.

4. Presentation and discussion regarding the city's plans to commemorate Veterans Day 2020

Mr. Corsette reviewed draft plans for the Veterans Day 2020 commemoration. Due to COVID limitations, the event will be held virtually instead of in-person. He noted that the video program that the Commission has talked about is on hold because it would be best if the interviewers and interviewees could be in the same room when recording. However, Mayor Lane has been making videos that are COVID related and it is hoped that interviews with notable veterans could be arranged in time to include them as part of the Veterans Day celebration. Possible Guests include General McGuire, Colonel Jay Vargas, Lieutenant Commander Bill Spence, and VAC Chair Pete Palmer. Other possible options for the event are a special performance by the Scottsdale Police/Fire Arm Guard, a wreath laying ceremony or other ceremony with the Chaplain sculpture or Merci Boxcar, and a closing performance of taps by Scottsdale's official bugler.

Commissioners suggested that the performance be done by the American Legion instead of the Police/Fire guard. Commissioner Stempel noted that Phoenix has cancelled their Veterans Day Parade.

Commissioners discussed holding a Veterans Day event at the Thunderbird Veterans Memorial at Scottsdale Airport. Mr. Corsette undertook to research this possibility.

5. Presentation and discussion of the Maricopa County Point-in-Time Homeless Count for 2020

Commissioners reviewed the 2020 Point-in-Time Homeless Count, noting there were ten self-proclaimed veterans on the list. Discussion ensued regarding supportive services and shelters available in or near Scottsdale and the expectations of City Council. Mr. Corsette will offer a supplemental report in December and further discussion on how to assist Scottsdale's homeless veterans will be agendaized.

6. Commission members' reports, updates and suggestions for future agenda items

The next meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2020.

7. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER STEMPLIL MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER RAGOLE SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR PALMER, COMMISSIONERS MONROE, RAGOLE, STEMPLIL, AND ZIOMEK VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

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